

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on August 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chair  
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chair  
Jon Myers, Managing Director  
Russ Inman, Design Engineer  
Donna Lowe, Finance Director  
Ashley Hiles, GIS Technician  
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician  
Absent: Art Buck, Superintendent  
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Laura Dawson, Lee Township; Heidi Pitt, Lee Township; Dan Mieske, Hope Township; Robert L. Kelley, Hope Township; Bill Domina; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township attended virtually.

### **The Pledge of Allegiance was said**

#### **Additions to Agenda:**

None

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2022 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2022 meeting, with a correction to attendees listed.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#### **Public Comment:**

Laura Dawson asked for an update on the Plastic Roads in Larkin Township. Art stated he would have to get in touch with the project manager for an update.

Dan Mieske asked about shoulder removal at Levely Rd. That was identified as ongoing regular maintenance, not a specific project.

Maria Sandow thanked the Commission for the signs at the Little League tournament.

Jeanette Snyder stated she had a resident reach out to her about a tree that is down in the grass area inside the roundabout on M-30. She also complemented the Anna Lane project for the progress and how well it is going. Jeanette gave the Commission condolences on the passing of Bruce Clark and notified them that the deadline for a candidate to finish out the term is August 9, 2022.

#### **Approval of Open Accounts:**

The pre-pay for July 21, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for July 21, 2022, in the amount of \$501,938.82.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton,  
Nays: None

Motion Carried

The pre-pay for August 4, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for August 4, 2022, in the amount of \$251,579.07.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton,  
Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Correspondence and Items of Information:**

The CRA Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions Annual Conference is going to be held at the Great Wolf Lodge September 14-16, 2022. Staff and Commissioners will let Donna know for sure if they are attending.

The CRA Commissioners Seminar will be held in Frankenmuth October 9-11. Neither Commissioner Atton or Hyatt thought they would attend, but thought it should be offered to the new Commissioner, once they are appointed.

The East Central Conference meeting is being hosted by our staff on August 18, 2022, at the Chippewa Nature Center. Both Commissioners plan to attend that meeting.

**Permit listing was reviewed**

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Jon discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Midland County Road Commission and MDOT for the Meridian Road Jurisdictional Transfer. This is the first step in the process of making Meridian Road M-30 again. This agreement does involve a money exchange, which is the amounts that were already committed to the local share of the Meridian Road/Chippewa River and Meridian Road/Pine River bridges, which will be contributed to MDOT towards those projects. The only project that the road commission will have to complete aside from this commitment is the culvert replacement at the Prairie Creek Bridge. He also discussed how this will free up ten miles of primary road to convert from local roads which will help out the townships as well. He is hoping to complete the transfer by November.

Moved by Commissioner Atton and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with MDOT, which will be signed at a later date.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt  
Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Misc:**

None

**Staff Reports:**

Jeff discussed his ongoing survey projects and stated that he has been helping the crew at the Grey Road Bridge. The beams are going to be set next week. Jon explained how Clare County has helped out with a new ultra-high performance concrete material they have been working with U of M to design that will do the closure pours between the beams.

Russ gave updates on his work with easements for the Ridge Dr. project. He has been working with Rowe on the Monroe/Waldo Roundabout. There was a local drainage project on Monroe this year that has significantly reduced the amount of right of way needed for the roundabout project. He is contacting the property owners soon with the smaller easement amounts and hoping to have it bid out by January or February of next year.

He again praised the interns that have been working back in the engineering department this year. They are doing a wonderful job and he can't say enough good about them.

The Midland County Fair is beginning on August 14. He and Ashley are setting up a display for the Road Commission and they will be playing Ashley's monthly videos on a loop at the booth.

Jon discussed the results of the Road Millage election, which passed with 79% support. There was also a Porter Township road improvement millage renewal that passed. Overall, all road millages in the state did very well in the recent election. Russ mentioned that Katy Guyer from the City of Midland had worked hard on the brochures for the millage and she did a great job with them. He appreciates the great working relationship we have with the city.

Jon has also been working with the Drain Commission on an agreement for drain crossings, including the Prairie Creek project he mentioned earlier.

He gave an update on the Anna Lane project, which is the last part of the NRCS projects that have been in the process for almost 2 years. The FEMA portion of the flood repair projects are almost complete as well. Three projects are completely done; Grey Road and Stewart Rd are the last two that need to be completed. He discussed the design plans for those projects, which were complicated by the angle of the culvert.

Final approval was granted for the RTF funding Jon applied for in June. Those funds are going to be used toward the 2023 Tittabawassee Road project.

Jon has also been working with Michigan Tech to set up a Transportation Asset Management training for local agencies. It would provide the cities and townships with some training on how the road funding works.

Commissioner Atton noted he saw an ad for the Road Commission accepting applications to fill a position that will open at the end of the year due to a retirement.

The union contract was discussed, as it is nearing ratification. Everyone, including the legal representation, was impressed with how well everyone got along and how smoothly the process went.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:47 a.m. until Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

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Donna Lowe, Finance Director

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Mike Atton, Chair